

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03966 090743Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01

PRS-01 MCT-01 /115 W

-----045356 090825Z /23

R 090700Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8359

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3966

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: C, MZ

SUBJECT: MOATIZE COAL EXPLOSION

REF: MAPUTO 958

1. MEMBERS OF 21 MAN SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RESCUE TEAM RETURNED TO JOHANNESBURG AUGUST 8 FROM SCENE OF MOATIZE MINE DISASTER. IN STATEMENTS TO PRESS, TEAM MEMBERS ESTIMATED ACTUAL NUMBER KILLED AT ABOUT 70 COMPARED TO PREVIOUS REPORTS OF 150. WHEN TEAM ARRIVED AT MINE, AIR IN SHAFT WAS FIVE PERCENT METHANE, WELL ABOVE LETHAL LEVEL AND RULING OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF SURVIVORS.

2. TEAM MEMBERS PAINTED PICTURE OF CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND DISORGANIZATION AT MINE. NO MINE OFFICIALS REMAINED AND, ALTHOUGH FRELIMO TROOPS PRESENT, NO ORGANIZATION SEEMED

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TO EXIST AT MINE. BODIES WERE STILL LAID OUT IN MINE OFFICES FOR LACK OF COFFINS. TEAM MEMBERS WERE ESCORTED BY FRELIMO SOLDIERS THROUGHOUT VISIT ALTHOUGH NO HOSTILITY WAS SHOWN BY MINERS. ONCE POSSIBILITY OF SURVIVORS WAS RULED OUT, TEAM SPENT TWO DAYS REPAIRING THE VENTILATION SYSTEM SO THAT REMAINING BODIES COULD BE REMOVED. WHILE TEAM MEMBERS DID NOT EXPRESSLY SAY SO, IMPLICATION WAS THAT FAULTY VENTILATING

SYSTEM WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN EXPLOSION. TEAM MEMBERS DID NOT
ELABORATE ON FATE OF EUROPEAN MINE OFFICIALS KILLED SUB-
SEQUENT TO EXPLOSION.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COAL, EXPLOSIONS, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR03966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770285-1191
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770881/aaaacqur.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 927a635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MAPUTO 958
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1662758
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOATIZE COAL EXPLOSION
TAGS: EMIN, SF, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/927a635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009